

April 9, 1974

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, perhaps I have received a direct answer. May I ask Senator Syas a question?

SENATOR SYAS: Yield.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Syas you heard the question that I asked Senator Fellman. Does this bill and its companion impose a condition on a petition candidates which is not imposed on the Democratic or Republican?

SENATOR SYAS: As Chairman of the committee, I would have to say yes it does, I would have to say that the constitutional amendment does the same thing. It imposes a condition on an independent candidate which it does not on a partisan candidate. The bill as well as the constitution amendment both do the people passed it and I think that it is restrictive on the independent candidates, both ways.

PRESIDENT: Alright.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Now I'll conclude, very briefly. Mr. President, members of the legislature I have stated repeatedly openly and above board what my intentions are. When questions are put to me about this whole thing, it doesn't take me 15-20 minutes to avoid giving an answer and ultimately not giving an answer. There is nothing to be gained by compounding a difficulty that was created by constitutional provision which in fact is unconstitutional according to the federal requirements of equal justice or equal protection of the law or whatever phrase that you want to put it under. The point is that this particular provision of the state constitution was considering only political parties. Regulating only political parties, the mistake was made in taking the practices of political parties and make them a part of the state constitution. Everybody in this group knows that there are many times when amendments are presented to the public without them totally understanding what the amendment is doing. Without having an entire question submitted, there is part of it but not the entire thing. That is what happened this time. If this bill is not passed, I'm not the one to bring a law suit, because then I could get on the ballot without having to meet a condition that is not imposed upon other people. So what has to be presented to you I would think is who has an interest in bringing a law suit if these two bills are not passed. Certainly not me. There would be no reason for it. I could get on the ballot.

PRESIDENT: Question is shall LB932 be returned to Select File for a specific amendment, that is to strike the enacting clause. This motion is to return the bill only. Motion is to return LB932 to Select File for a specific amendment that is to strike the enacting clause. Once again, this motion is to return the bill only. Have you all voted? Once again have you all voted? Clerk will record.

CLERK: 1 aye, 15 nays.

PRESIDENT: Motion is lost.

CLERK: Read unanimous consent motion by Senator Syas.

PRESIDENT: Senator Syas.